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KERALA GAZETTE

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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Agriculture (Planning) Department

NOTIFICATION

No. 14482/Ag.P4/71/AD. *Dated, Trivandrum, 1st April 1971.*

WHEREAS the Government are of opinion, having carefully considered the Report submitted by Shri K. K. Ramankutty, Member, Board of Revenue, appointed to enquire into the allegations against the acquisition of land for the Agricultural University, Mannuthy, as per G.O. Rt. No. 3276/70/AD., dated 28-12-1970, with particular reference to the conclusions and inferences recorded by him on the conduct of high ranking officers of the Government and the political pressure alleged to have been brought to bear on them, that it is necessary to appoint a Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of making a full-fledged inquiry into the definite matters of public importance hereinafter specified;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (Act 60 of 1952), the Government hereby appoint a Commission of Inquiry consisting of Mr. Justice M. U. Isaac, Judge, High Court of Kerala to enquire into and report in respect of:—

(1) the extent and the nature of the lands required for the Agricultural University at Mannuthy, in Trichur;

(2) the suitability of the Vellanikara Estate sanctioned to be acquired for the University and of the lands now suggested in the Report of Shri K. K. Ramankutty;

and (3) whether:—

(a) the report of Dr. N. S. Money, Special Officer for Agricultural University, recommending the acquisition of Vellanikara Estate for the Agricultural University was the result of "heavy pressure from some very powerful quarters" as alleged in the report of Shri K. K. Ramankutty;

(b) there is any basis or justification for the allegation in the Report that Dr. Money has shown "ugly haste" to take advance possession of the land paying Rs. 50 lakhs as advance compensation and the further allegation that this "ugly haste" makes Dr. Money's role in the whole transaction more suspicious;

(c) Dr. Money's note recommending the acquisition of the Estate was approved by the Additional Secretary (Agriculture), Agricultural Production Commissioner and the Agriculture Minister in haste without applying their minds to the pros and cons of the matter;

(d) there is any justification or basis for the imputation in the Report that "political pressure is used not only on officers at the lower and intermediate levels of the official heirarchy, but even the Chief Secretary to the Government is no exception";

(e) there is any basis for the imputation in the report that the C. P. I. Unit in Kerala is deeply interested in or is to be materially benefited by the sanctioned acquisition of the Vellanikara Estate.

By order of the Governor,

C. THOMAS,

Agricultural Production Commissioner and Special Secretary to Government.

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